

TOWN OF WILTON

Date: December 2, 2013

Time: 6:30 P.M.

Place: Town Office

Present: Chairman Daniel E. Donovan, III, Selectmen William F. Condra and Richard E. Swanson, and Recording Secretary Pamela Atwood.

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chairman Donovan.

Steve Elliott was first on the agenda. He was before the Board to discuss snow removal in the downtown area. He has no place to put the snow now because of the areas he has lost each year; this year being the lot beside the Fire Station. His concern about storing the snow is only for large storms. The DPW can handle the removal during smaller storms. After discussing the situation further, it was agreed that Steve could hire outside contractors to move the snow during large storms and he should add it into his budget.

Next, Steve talked about the Storm Water Plan. He spoke to Dawn Tuomala who is heading up the plan and she anticipates that the Town will need approximately \$75,000. Chairman Donovan explained that this amount does not even include the equipment that will be necessary, for example, the salting and sanding equipment. He stated that the Storm Water issue is going to be huge.

The next item that Steve asked about was handing out keys for the Recycling center to vendors. Fred Fuller Oil Company has been going to the Recycling Center for years to fill the diesel tank when the Center is manned, but now the driver has asked for a key to access the Recycling Center when he needs to fill the diesel tank. Steve is reluctant so he wanted to talk to the Board. The Selectmen discussed the issue and decided that they did not want to give keys to Fred Fuller

Oil Company, noting that the oil company had been working around the Recycling Center schedule for many years.

The Sewer Commissioners attended the meeting to discuss their budget. Tom Herlihy said that the Commission proposed a 10.79% increase which was necessary to cover the \$26,000 obligation to begin repaying the bond. Essentially it is a flat budget except for that item. The Storm Water Plan may increase their share of the bill to the Milford facility. Other items of discussion included creating a capital reserve fund. Tom Herlihy will contact Attorney Little to discuss a capital reserve fund for the Sewer Commission.

Motion: Selectman Condra made a motion to allow the Sewer Commission to create a capital reserve fund with any excess funds left from the bond account; and once established the capital reserve account can receive additional funding. Chairman Donovan seconded the motion. He called for a vote, which was cast unanimously in favor of the creating a capital reserve fund.

Selectman Swanson asked about the cost savings in the usage from Milford since the new pipe had been installed on Maple Street. The Sewer Commissioners provided some answers to his question stating, in part, they have seen some reduction in the last few bills but they are unsure of the reason yet because it is very dry out now. They will need several months of data before they know for sure. Chairman Donovan thanked them for attending the meeting.

Next, the Water Commissioners were in attendance to discuss their budget. Their bottom line is down somewhat and they do not have any big projects scheduled for 2014. They asked for numbers to budget for the 457b Plan and Chairman Donovan suggested they assume 3%. The Water Commissioners discussed future needs and the Quinn pit agreement. Charlie McGettigan was recognized and he stated that he does not think the Water Commission is required to buy the land but

that it would behoove them to purchase it.

Chief Hautanen presented his budget to the Selectmen. He did a pay study for his department, noting that the last time one was done was in 2006. He studied five towns and the State Police. The result is that Wilton is significantly underpaid. Brent mentioned that at one point the Budget Committee had talked about adopting a pay system, stating that he would like to see the Town put one in place for all town employees. Working from the handout he gave the Selectmen, Brent explained his proposal. The proposed salary scale would raise his budget 6.4%. Chairman Donovan stated that with the 25% percent that goes into the New Hampshire retirement System, Brent's proposal is a \$50,000 salary increase for his officers and himself. The Selectmen asked him several questions including how many Officers his department had lost recently. Brent stated that has a very good group of officers and he would hate to lose them to other towns. Chairman Donovan stated that he feels there is no one overpaid who works for the Town but he is not certain about this pay study increase because, for one thing, there are a lot of costs coming up. The Budget Committee meets Thursday and Dan will deliver the Selectmen's opinion. Selectman Condra stated that he is prepared to support Brent's request. Selectman Swanson said that he would like to see the amount less than \$50,000. Selectman Condra suggested to spread the proposed increase over a two year period. There was further discussion about how to implement a plan so Chairman Donovan was informed to tell the Budget Committee of the Selectmen's opinion. He spoke about the previous study committee appointed by the Budget Committee to study the salary issue. He would like to see the committee resurrected. The proposal was acceptable to the Selectmen to divide the increase evenly over a two year period.

The Chief and the Board discussed other line items in his budget and Selectman Swanson asked for Brent's opinion regarding the MACC Base software purchase. Brent is in favor of it. Selectman Swanson

confirmed that the Selectmen agreed and he would vote in favor of it at the next MACC Base budget meeting. Next, Brent told the Board about his need for a radio antenna on the Police Station. There was further talk about it and the Selectmen agreed that he should put an antenna at the back of the building.

Ambulance Chief Gary Zirpolo was next to discuss his budget with the Selectmen. He spoke about a few line items individually and he stated that the Ambulance Service has been well above the projected revenue for the past two years. He will purchase a new ambulance next September or October. His bottom line is a 6% increase but as Dan stated half of his increase is offset by revenue. The Selectmen are fine with his proposed budget.

Chairman Donovan stated that he had spoken to Gary Zirpolo about another item and Dan called for a nonpublic meeting at 8:44 P.M. per RSA 91-A:3,II(a). The motion was seconded by Selectman Condra followed by a vote with all in favor.

The regular meeting was called to order at 9:13 P.M.

The minutes were approved.

The manifests were signed.

Stipends for Water and Sewer Commissioners were discussed.

Chairman Donovan explained how the distribution of stipends has been carried out for years, in that, the stipend goes to the office holder at the date the payment is made. He suggested getting direction from the Water and Sewer boards regarding their requested split distribution.

Chairman Donovan updated the Board on the Fairpoint settlement which has been sent out by the Town. He also updated them on the status of the 141k suit with Lyndeborough.

Next the Selectmen talked about the suit with NTV, LLC. After

discussing the latest court action, Selectman Condra stated that he would prefer to put the case on hold rather than withdraw by agreement. He would like to see if NTV, LLC will agree to go before the Zoning Board. Chairman Donovan will contact Attorney Little with the Board's request.

A representative from the Library had enquired about getting on the Town's 457(b) Plan. The Selectmen discussed it and decided it would be too difficult to administer since the Library does their own payroll. They are free to look into a plan of their own.

Selectmen Condra started a discussion about the grant that Peggy Waterhouse had asked the Selectmen about for the daycare care center at Pine Hill. Bill stated that it seemed to be a conflict to facilitate getting grant money for the Pine Hill School that they cannot get on their own. He feels that this would give the perception that the Town of Wilton did something to facilitate private school interest, and he stated "we can't do that". Chairman Donovan has the same concerns and he told how he had spoken to Fire Chief Ray Dick who had inspected the building and told Ms. Waterhouse in July that she needed site plan approval from the Planning Board before she could operate. Selectman Swanson's opinion is that the daycare center provides a public benefit. Chairman Donovan doesn't understand why the grant would have to pass through the Town. Rick stated that he can see the risk. Selectman Condra wondered how the money would flow through the Town. The Board agreed that they would have to see all the documentation before voting on anything.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 P.M. by Chairman Donovan, seconded by Selectman Condra, followed by a vote with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted;

Pamela L. Atwood,
Recording Secretary